



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Distrust of government keeps growing: Will the Libertarian Party benefit?

WASHINGTON, DC — Distrust of politicians and the federal government is skyrocketing, according to a series of articles in the *Washington Post* last week — and may present a historic opportunity for the Libertarian Party.

According to a new public opinion study by the *Post*, **75% of Americans no longer “trust the government in Washington to do the right thing most of the time.”** By contrast, a mere 24% didn't trust the government in 1964.

But the distrust isn't just general — it's also specific. For example:

- 34% say government programs have worsened “the rate of violent crime.”
- 37% believe government has increased “the chances that children will grow up in single-parent families.”
- Almost 50% say government has worsened “the income gap between wealthy and middle-class Americans.”

On all three issues, only 10% say the federal government “helped make things better.”

In the words of the *Post*, **“Substantial segments of the public believe the federal government has hurt the economy and society in general.”**

What's the result of all these governmental failures? “The public is increasingly . . . ready to believe that raising taxes to pay for federal programs is a wasteful strategy that may do more harm than good,” said the *Post*.

This is good news for the Libertarian Party, said the party's National Director Perry Willis.

“The *Washington Post* theorizes that Republicans may benefit from this distrust of

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government — but, in the long run, that's not likely," said Willis. "After all, the Republican Party has been an eager co-conspirator in the growth of big government for the past 50 years. And even the GOP's most radical proposals call for the federal government to keep growing at a robust 3% yearly rate.

"Only the Libertarian Party — with its consistent message of smaller, less expensive, less intrusive government — is poised to capitalize on this phenomenon. Only the Libertarian Party is advancing serious proposals to take power away from government, and return it to individuals.

"Our challenge in 1996 and beyond will be to convey our Libertarian message to an increasingly receptive American public," said Willis.

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About the Libertarian Party

The Libertarian Party is America's third largest political party. There are more than 120,000 registered Libertarians in 26 states around the USA, and over 160 Libertarians serve in public office, including one State Representative in New Hampshire, one mayor in California, and more than 30 city or town council members around the country.

The Libertarian Party is already qualified to be on the ballot for the 1996 presidential election in 29 states, and expects to be on the ballot on all 50 states. The Libertarian presidential nominating convention will be held in Washington, DC July 3-7, 1996. In all, the party plans to run more than 1,000 candidates for public office in 1996 — far more than any other third party.

The Libertarian Party platform calls for vigorous defense of the Bill of Rights, free enterprise, civil liberties, free trade, no meddling overseas, and private charity.